

RyeNeck Schools

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**RYE NECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT
300 HORNIDGE ROAD
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK 10543
BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING SESSION
October 6, 2022**

Present: President Gloria Golle
Trustee Rebecca Mansell
Trustee Patty Nashelsky
Trustee Devina O'Reilly
Trustee Jennifer Rubin
Trustee Elizabeth Yong
Dr. Eric Lutinski, Superintendent of Schools
Carolyn Mahar, Assistant Superintendent for Business
Corinne Ryan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Mary Ellen Chiera, District Clerk

I. Opening of Meeting

President Golle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Approval of Minutes of September 21, 2022 Board of Education Meeting

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Nashelsky and seconded by Trustee Rubin, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Minutes of the Board of Education Meeting held September 21, 2022, as submitted.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

Approval of Minutes of September 28, 2022 Board of Education Special Meeting

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Yong and seconded by Trustee Mansell, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby approves the Minutes of the Board of Education Special Meeting held September 28, 2022, as submitted.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

III. Discussion DEI Update

Mrs. Goldberg reported to the Board that today she attended the first monthly meeting of the SWBOCES DEI network at which they began to identify meaningful topics to address each month. She stated that the Rye Neck DEI Committee began its work over the summer. They brought in Gholdy Muhammad, author of “Cultivating Genius”, to speak to the staff regarding culturally responsive teaching practices. In addition, school based teams are exploring opportunities for students to share parts of their own culture in their classes or schools. Mrs. Goldberg stated that the DEI Committee will continue its work at the October curriculum meeting, and will decide how to move forward with new initiatives and actions in order to make students and families feel included and to provide more professional development for teachers.

Homecoming

Dr. Lutinski advised that Homecoming is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 14th and 15th. Girls soccer and volleyball have games on Friday night, and girls tennis, field hockey, boys soccer and football play Saturday afternoon. In addition, there will be activities for the younger kids at Homecoming. The week leading up to Homecoming is Spirit Week. Wednesday is the senior trip to Chelsea Piers, Thursday is Link Up day where the seniors meet their 6th grade buddies, and Friday is Buddy Day and the Pep Rally. It is also PTSA Walk to School Week, and there will be themed dress up days.

NYSSMA Spring Event

Dr. Lutinski reported that Rye Neck is hosting this year’s NYSSMA String Festival on April 14th and 15th. He explained that the purpose of the event is for students to perform individually before judges who rate them. The rating scale is based on age. Music teachers Caitlin Clarke and Jessica Yeung will coordinate all aspects of the festival. Dr. Lutinski stated that the Booster Club will be helping out at the event as it does with our other arts programs. Discussion was had regarding how best to promote the event and encourage students to participate.

Foundation Aid & COVID Federal Funding Update

Mrs. Mahar reminded the Board that the district received 3 rounds of COVID money from the government. It received \$72,580 under the CARES Act in 2020, \$211,266 under CRRSA in 2021, \$474,817 under the ARP and \$73,311 under the ARP-611 in 2021. The money from the CARES Act was used primarily on technology in 2020. The entire CRRSA grant was used in the 2021-21school year towards two elementary teachers at F.E. Bellows, a kindergarten aide, mental health initiatives at the Middle/High School and costs related to districtwide COVID testing. A portion of the ARP grant (\$241,002) was used in the 2021-22 school year towards a districtwide summer program during July and August 2021, an elementary guidance counselor, an elementary AIS teacher, an intramural sports program for 6th graders, mental health initiatives at the Middle/High School, and outdoor learning space development and the Middle/High School. As of July 1, 2022, the ARP grant had a balance of \$233,815. Districtwide summer programs during July and August of 2022 utilized \$58,000 of such balance. The remainder will be utilized by June 30, 2023 on another classroom teacher at F.E. Bellows, two full time aides for kindergarten classrooms, outdoor learning space development at the Middle/High School, and mental health initiatives at the Middle/High School.

With regard to Foundation Aid for the 2023-24 school year, Mrs. Mahar reported that Rye Neck has historically been underfunded in this category. However, New York State has made a commitment to fully phase-in Foundation Aid for underfunded districts by 2023-24. Rye Neck received an increase of \$642,000 in the 2022-23 school year, and estimates indicate that Rye Neck will receive an additional \$600,000 for the 2023-24 school year. As it did in December 2021, the district will once again solicit input from the community on how to use the increase in Foundation Aid funds. Dr. Lutinski will include a link to the survey in his October 11th weekly update.

BCS Site Review

Mrs. Mahar reported that the final piece of the site review of all the buildings and grounds was conducted today. The report is due to New York State on March 23, 2023. It will help formulate a capital improvement plan for future work.

High School Financial Aid Meeting

It was mentioned that the High School Financial Aid Meeting should be opened to all High School students, not just seniors. Mrs. Ryan stated that it is open to all. Discussion was had regarding the timing of the meetings and whether or not they should be Mandatory.

IV. Executive Session

Upon Motion duly made by Trustee Nashelsky and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Rye Neck Union Free School District hereby agrees to move into executive session to discuss a particular person.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

V. Adjournment of Executive Session, Reopening of Public Meeting and Adjournment of Public Meeting

Upon motion duly made by Trustee Mansell and seconded by Trustee Yong, it was

RESOLVED, that the executive session be adjourned and the Public Meeting be reopened; and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that there being no further business before the Board and upon motion duly made by Trustee Rubin and seconded by Trustee O'Reilly, it was

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Education Planning Session of October 6, 2022 be adjourned.

AYES: All Present

NAYES: None

President Golle adjourned the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen Chiera
District Clerk